

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals and objectives that outline necessary and appropriate actions to meet San Antonio's needs for park and recreation facilities and programs are critical to the success of the Parks and Recreation System Plan. In order to develop goals and objectives that reflect community priorities, input was solicited from members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Open Space Advisory Board throughout 1997 and 1998. In addition, 14 public meetings were held in June, July and November 1997 to receive community comments. The resulting goals and objectives, which are consistent with the City of San Antonio's 1997 Master Plan Policies, summarize the vision of citizens and staff for the parks and recreation system in the coming eight years.

GOAL 1

PLAN, DEVELOP AND SUSTAIN A DIVERSIFIED AND BALANCED CITY-WIDE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES BASED ON PROGRAM NEEDS.

Objectives

- 1a) Establish a process that encourages civic participation in the ongoing development, implementation and evaluation of the Parks and Recreation System Plan.
- 1b) Prepare and implement funding requests and master development plans for existing and new City parks, providing for varying intensities of development as appropriate.
- 1c) Acquire and develop new park and recreation facilities in areas which are underserved.
- 1d) Plan and develop a city-wide system of multi-purpose linear parks and greenways.
- 1e) Implement a requirement that subdividers of residential property provide recreational opportunities through either dedication of park land or fees-in-lieu of park land.
- 1f) Coordinate with adjacent property owners and neighborhood associations to assure that park and recreation facilities and programs are compatible with the surrounding area.

- 1g) Coordinate with other public and private entities in the acquisition, development, shared use, and operation and maintenance of existing and/or new park and recreation facilities to serve the public's best interest.
- 1h) Maximize the land use efficiency of heavily impacted parks with the goal of eliminating conflicts and reducing over use and other negative impacts to parks and users.
- 1i) Assess public park and recreational needs on an ongoing basis, and incorporate these findings into the City's capital improvement program and operating budget processes.

GOAL 2

CONSERVE AND ENHANCE SAN ANTONIO'S NATURAL RESOURCES.

Objectives

- 2a) Broaden park acquisition and management priorities to include natural areas and to increase passive recreational opportunities.
- 2b) Identify and protect native flora and fauna and fragile ecosystems in San Antonio's parks.
- 2c) Support the protection of the full array of natural community types in Bexar County.
- 2d) Utilize natural resource areas for public education and enjoyment where appropriate.
- 2e) Conserve floodplains as linear greenways and promote development of a city-wide system that will connect neighborhoods and provide alternative transportation routes and recreation opportunities as appropriate.

GOAL 3

CONSERVE AND ENHANCE ARCHAEOLOGICAL, CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND ARTISTIC RESOURCES LOCATED IN SAN ANTONIO'S PARKS.

Objectives

- 3a) Identify and enhance archaeological, cultural, historical, and artistic resources in San Antonio's parks.

- 3b) Support the identification and preservation of the archaeological, cultural, historical, and artistic resources of Bexar County.
- 3c) Plan for the conservation of these sites and where appropriate, their utilization for public enjoyment and educational interpretation.
- 3d) Expand cultural and historical programs offered at recreation facilities and develop new programs at locations not presently offering related activities.

GOAL 4

MAINTAIN AND REHABILITATE PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES TO ASSURE QUALITY SERVICE TO USERS.

Objectives

- 4a) Develop and implement a system-wide maintenance plan for parks and recreation facilities appropriate to their classification, taking into consideration the aging infrastructure of many City facilities.
- 4b) Utilize best management practices when rehabilitating existing parks and recreation facilities and constructing new facilities.
- 4c) Rehabilitate and retrofit indoor and outdoor facilities to serve contemporary recreation programming needs.
- 4d) Establish or expand partnerships with individuals and organizations to provide volunteer and community service opportunities for ongoing development and maintenance of park and recreational facilities.
- 4e) Develop efficient use of contractual, intergovernmental and youth employment programs to expand maintenance resources, while at the same time providing other direct benefits.

GOAL 5

ENHANCE RECREATION AND LEISURE PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES BASED ON COMMUNITY NEEDS.

Objectives

- 5a) Develop a system to assess the needs and interests of all user groups based on demographics and geographic information, and offer programs and facilities within available resources.

- 5b) Address the quality of programming, especially for youth and families, that directly serve their needs.
- 5c) Maximize programs that are not dependent upon extensive infrastructure and operations and maintenance costs.
- 5d) Maximize partnerships with public and private owners to encourage sharing of recreational facilities owned by the City, school districts, other public agencies, and private institutions and organizations.
- 5e) Expand and develop programs that historically have not been accessible to all populations.

GOAL 6

ENSURE THAT SAN ANTONIO'S PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES ARE SAFE AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL USERS.

Objectives

- 6a) Provide the level of Park Ranger presence needed to assure adequate public service, safety, and enforcement of existing ordinances in City parks, employing special assignment teams as needed.
- 6b) Reduce vandalism and destruction at park and recreation facilities through appropriate security measures, coordination with other local agencies and law enforcement entities, rapid repair response, and a citizen awareness and partnership program (i.e. "adopt-a-park").
- 6c) Ensure easy, safe, and well-marked multi-modal access to all parks and recreation facilities.